

For Immediate Release

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3rd i Films Presents:

Speaker Series 2010 Summer Program

Battle of the Bollywood Maestros: R.D. Burman vs A.R. Rahman

SAN FRANCISCO, July 23, 2010

From art-house classics to documentary films, innovative and experimental visions to next-level Bollywood: 3rd i (www.thirdi.org), is committed to promoting diverse images of South Asians through independent film.

3rd i's *Speaker Series* invites scholars, experts and enthusiasts to explore a variety of topics related to South Asian cinema – from cinema history and famous personalities, to current trends and politics of representation. Talks are illustrated with film clips, stills, sound bites and other media. Presentations are followed by an open discussion moderated by the speaker.

This year's second installement in the series examines the legacy of two Bollywood giants – **R.D. Burman** and **A.R. Rahman**. R.D. Burman revolutionized the sound of Bollywood in the 60s and 70s, bringing a world of influences to Hindi film music, and his versatility kept him popular for 4 decades! A.R. Rahman is the heir-apparent, drawing inspiration from a diversity of musical traditions. This Academy Award winning composer of *Slumdog Millionaire* began his career working in the Tamil film industry with Mani Ratnam (*Roja*, *Bombay*, *Dil Se*).

On **Sunday August 15 at 5pm**, the musically-minded Robin Sukhadia will MC an evening of music and mayhem, as we pit R.D. vs A.R. in a musical face-off! Robin will also present a profile of the two music directors with facts about how they rose through the ranks of Bollywood, what songs put them on the map, and just why they are considered 'Bollywood Maestros'. Leading up to the event, 3rd i will accept suggestions from Bay Area fans for the final set-list of songs that will represent each composer in this battle. The in-house audience will vote to decide which maestro ascends to the status of *Bollywood Legend!*

Guest Speaker **Robin Sukhadia** recently completed a Master in Fine Arts at the California Institute of the Arts, where he had been studying tabla under Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri. He is especially interested in the musical traditions and rhythms of South Asia and will be traveling to India on a Fulbright Senior Research Award to expand his work in music education. More information is available at www.tablapusher.com

The program will take place at Artists' Television Access (992 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110). Tickets are \$8-\$10 sliding scale.

3rd i's 2010 *Speaker Series* is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

More details, including instructions regarding audience participation, are available on our website at: www.thirdi.org

PROGRAM INFORMATION AT-A-GLANCE

What: Battle of the Bollywood Maestros: R.D. Burman vs A.R. Rahman

Guest Speaker: Robin Sukhadia

Where: ATA, 992 Valencia Street, SF

When: Sunday August 15 @ 5pm

Tickets: \$8-\$10